

COUNTRY DATA: COLUMBIA: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Colombia was one of the three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 (the others are Ecuador and Venezuela). A four-decade long conflict between government forces and anti-government insurgent groups, principally the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) heavily funded by the drug trade, escalated during the 1990s. The insurgents lack the military or popular support necessary to overthrow the government and violence has been decreasing since about 2002, but insurgents continue attacks against civilians and large areas of the countryside are under guerrilla influence or are contested by security forces. More than 31,000 former paramilitaries had demobilized by the end of 2006 and the United Self Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) as a formal organization had ceased to function. In the wake of the paramilitary demobilization, emerging criminal groups arose, whose members include some former paramilitaries. The Colombian Government has stepped up efforts to reassert government control throughout the country, and now has a presence in every one of its administrative departments. However, neighboring countries worry about the violence spilling over their borders.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Panama and Venezuela, and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Ecuador and Panama.
Area	1,138,914 sq km
Climate	Tropical along coast and eastern plains; cooler in highlands.
Natural Resources	Petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, nickel, gold, copper, emeralds, hydropower.
Total Renewable Water Resources	2,132 cu km (2000)
Freshwater Withdrawal	10.71 cu km/yr (50%/4%/46%)
Natural Hazards	Highlands subject to volcanic eruptions; occasional earthquakes; periodic droughts Volcanism: Galeras (elev. 4,276 m, 14,029 ft) is one of Colombia's most active volcanoes, having erupted in 2009 and 2010 causing major evacuations; it has been deemed a "Decade Volcano" by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior, worthy of study due to its explosive history and close proximity to human populations; Nevado del Ruiz (elev. 5,321 m, 17,453 ft), 129 km (80 mi) west of Bogota, erupted in 1985 producing lahars that killed 23,000 people; the volcano last erupted in 1991; additionally, after 500 years of dormancy, Nevado del Huila reawakened in 2007 and has experienced frequent eruptions since then; other historically active volcanoes include Cumbal, Dona Juana, Nevado del Tolima, and Purace.
Environmental	Deforestation; soil and water quality damage from overuse of pesticides; air pollution, especially in Bogota, from vehicle emissions.

Issues	
PEOPLE	
Population	44,205,293 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Mestizo 58%, white 20%, mulatto 14%, black 4%, mixed black-Amerindian 3%, Amerindian 1%
Religions	Roman Catholic 90%, other 10%
Languages	Spanish (official)
Literacy Rate	90.4%
Major Infectious Diseases	Degree of risk: high Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea Vectorborne diseases: dengue fever, malaria, and yellow fever Water contact disease: leptospirosis (2009) HIV/AIDS – adult prevalence rate: 0.6% (2007 est.)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Republic; executive branch dominates government structure.
Independence	20 July 1810 (from Spain).
Constitution	5 July 1991; amended many times.
Legal System	Based on Spanish law; a new criminal code modeled after US procedures was enacted into law in 2004 and reached full implementation in January 2008; judicial review of executive and legislative acts; has not accepted compulsory International Court of Justice jurisdiction.
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	Coffee, cut flowers, bananas, rice, tobacco, corn, sugarcane, cocoa beans, oilseed, vegetables; forest products; shrimp.
Industries	Textiles, food processing, oil, clothing and footwear, beverages, chemicals, cement; gold, coal, emeralds.
Import commodities	Industrial equipment, transportation equipment, consumer goods, chemicals, paper products, fuels, electricity.
Import Partners	US 30.61%, China 10.02%, Mexico 8.05%, Brazil 5.92%, France 3.99%, Germany 3.96% (2009).
Export Commodities	Petroleum, coffee, coal, nickel, emeralds, apparel, bananas, cut flowers.
Export Partners	US 32.45%, Venezuela 17.16%, Netherlands 4.22% (2009).
Per Capita GDP	\$9,300 (2009 est.)
Population	46.8% (2008)

below poverty line	
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*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: Colombia

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	73.4 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	7.4 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$8,589
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	9.7%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	49.5%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	48.5%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	43.3%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	79.8%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	96%
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	16%
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	11%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	29%

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	71%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	29%
Population without Access to Water (%)	8%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	26%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	1.1%
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	373,500
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	3,304-4,916
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	10%
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	75.1%
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	.3%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	.7%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	.6%
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	\$21.80
Population without Electricity (%)	6.7%

Colombia's Public Expenditure

